REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, and 11, the independent claims, have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention.

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action objected to the drawings as allegedly failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4), because reference characters HD 15 and HD 805 have both been used to designate HD 805. In response to this objection, the specification has been amended at page 12, line 16, to change "HD 15" to --HD 805--.

Paragraph 4 of the Office Action objected to the drawings for allegedly having no detailed description of parts 31, 321, 322, 323, and 324 in Fig. 10; and parts 105, 106, and 107 in Fig. 13A. Regarding the objections to Fig. 10, attached hereto is a copy of an amended Fig. 10, in which reference numerals 321, 322, 323, and 324 have been deleted. Additionally, the specification has been amended at page 11, line 23, to insert --on a host computer 31--. Regarding the objections to Fig. 13A, Applicants have amended the specification at pages 15 and 16, with special attention to the points raised in the Office Action.

Paragraph 5 of the Office Action objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for allegedly failing to show the detailed description of "Edit Button Operation." The Office Action directs the Applicant's attention to Fig. 14. In response to this objection, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the specification beginning at page 26, line 22, where it is stated that Fig. 14 is a flow chart showing the sequence which occurs when the edit button 511 in Fig. 5 is operated.

Based on the foregoing, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 6,161,115 to Ohanian, in view of U.S. Patent 5,640,577 to Scharmer; and Claims 5, 10, and 15, as being obvious from Ohanian in view of Scharmer, and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,451,900 to Mayer et al.

Claim 1 is directed to a form editing method of editing composite form data to be synthesized with field data, the composite form data being obtained as a combination of component form data. A component form data generation step generates component form data including a plurality of field attribute data, each field attribute data defining an attribute of the field data. A form data storing step stores composite form data in a form data storage means, the composite form data containing a plurality of the component form data generated in the component form data generation step in a predetermined order in one page. A field list display step displays each field attribute data of a plurality of component form data, which is contained in a page of interest of the composite form data stored in the form data storage means, with each serial number as a list.

The field list display step further comprises the steps of: (a) loading, as component form data of interest, one of the component form data contained in the composite form data of one page in the predetermined order; (b) incrementing the serial number in accordance with a field order of the field attribute data contained in the component form data of interest loaded in step (a); and (c) displaying the field attribute data contained in the component form data of interest and the serial number incremented in step (b).

One notable feature of Claim 1 is displaying each field attribute data of a plurality of component form data, which is contained in a page of interest of stored composite form data, the component form data being generated in a predetermined order. As recited in Claim 1, the composite form data is a combination of component form data, and the component form data includes a plurality of field attribute data.

Ohanian, as understood by Applicant, relates to a media editing system that includes storage for a machine-readable composition made up of scenes separated by transitions. The system can identify to an effect generator a scene in the composition and receive a modified version back from the effect generator. It can read machine-readable information associated with the modified version, and automatically reinsert the modified version into the machine-readable composition in synchronism with the position in the composition that the scene occupied, based on the machine-readable information. The system can also associate versions of the scene with the scene and display to a user a list of identifiers of the versions in response to a user command that references a portion of a timeline, and can respond to a selection command from the user to select one of the versions to be a default version for the composition.

Scharmer, as understood by Applicant, relates to a data processing system including automated forms generation which uses data displayed at a predetermined position on a data terminal display screen and a data processing function selector to automatically retrieve a pre-established form stored in a data processing system. The form includes a number of uncompleted fields. The data processing system retrieves at least one datum from at least one data field displayed on the screen, and automatically inserts the data in a predetermined uncompleted field of the form. The partially or fully completed

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form is then stored for later retrieval, updating and printing by the data processing system.

Ohanian, then, relates to a non-linear motion picture editing system, and discusses displaying identifiers of versions of a motion picture scene. Scharmer discusses a technique for editing form data to be synthesized with field data. However, Ohanian and Scharmer do not disclose, either separately or in combination (assuming such combination would even be permissible) the component form data recited in Claim 1. More specifically, Ohanian is silent about a form, and Scharmer merely discloses that data filled in one form are generated by applications different from each other.

The method of Claim 1, on the other hand, displays each field attribute data of a plurality of component form data, which is contained in a page of interest of stored composite form data, the component form data being generated in a predetermined order. For example, in Fig. 4, information is displayed which is related to composite form data of one page generated by composing a plurality of component form data in a predetermined order. As shown in Fig. 4, page 1 of the composite form data is made by component form data A and B, and page 4 is made by component form data A and D. (Of course, Fig. 4 is referred to herein for purposes of illustration only, and the method of Claim 1 is not limited only to the subject matter of that Figure.)

The present invention aims to ameliorate a problem caused by the fact that composite form data of one page can include a plurality of component form data. More particularly, as shown in Fig. 3, each component form data includes a plurality of field attribute data defining an attribute of the field data. A user can easily understand the number and the order of the field data in a component form. However, the user cannot easily understand the total number and the order of field data in the composite form data.

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The method of Claim 1 ameliorates the above problem, and makes it possible for the user to recognize the total number and the order of the field data in the composite form, when information related to the composite form data is displayed.

Neither Ohanian nor Scharmer address this problem, and nothing in those patents teaches or suggests displaying each field attribute data of a plurality of component form data, which is contained in a page of interest of stored composite form data, the component form data being generated in a predetermined order.

More particularly, nothing in Ohanian or Scharmer teaches or suggests "a component form data generation step, of generating component form data including a plurality of field attribute data, each field attribute data defining an attribute of the field data", "a form data storing step, of storing composite form data in a form data storage means, the composite form data containing a plurality of the component form data generated in said component form data generation step in a predetermined order in one page", and "a field list display step, of displaying each field attribute data of a plurality of component form data, which is contained in a page of interest of the composite form data stored in said form data storage means, with each serial number as a list," as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Claim 1 is patentable over Ohanian and Scharmer, whether considered separately or in any permissible combination.

Independent Claims 6 and 11 are apparatus and computer program product claims respectively corresponding to method Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over those references for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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